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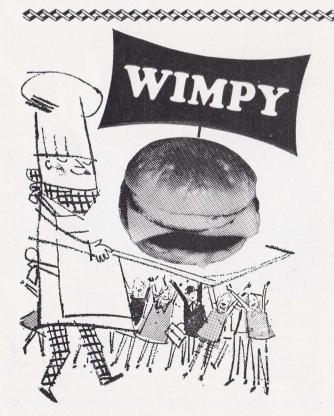
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SEASON OPENS SUNDAY, 9th MAY, 1976

Wednesday, 12th May Saturday, 15th May

Nightly at 8.00

CORK OPERA HOUSE

in association with

THE DUBLIN GRAND OPERA SOCIETY

present

"L'ELISIR D'AMORE"

by GAETANO DONIZETTI (1797-1848)

Libretto adapted by Donizetti and Felice Romani from "Le Philtre" by Eugene Scribe

First performed at Teatro Cannobiano, Milan, on 12th May, 1832

THE CAST

ADINA (a landowner) TERRY REID UGO BENELLI NEMORINO (a peasant) SERGEANT BELCORE (a military man) ATTILIO D'ORAZI DOCTOR DULCAMARA (a quack) AURIO TOMICICH GIANETTA (a village girl) SHEILA MOLONEY Villagers and Soldiers

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY

The Scene is set in an Italian village in the early part of the 19th century

ACT ONE Outside of the village

ACT TWO In Adina's House

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"L'ELISIR D'AMORE" THE STORY OF THE OPERA

ACT ONE

ADINA sits reading outside her farmhouse, in the company of her friends who sing a chorus in praise of the lovely summer day. Nemorino sings of his love for Adina but she is irritated by his timidity. She reads to her friends the story of Tristan and Isolde and the love potion; and her listeners, especially Nemorino, wonder where they might obtain such a potion.

Sergeant Belcore now appears and lays siege to Adina's heart, but leaves without success. When he departs Nemorino shyly pleads his cause but with no greater fortune.

A flourish of trumpets heralds the arrival of Dr. Dulcamara — the itinerant quack - who isn't slow in proclaiming his genius and the wonders of his medicine. Nemorino asks him if he has heard of Isolde's love potion and of course is told the doctor is the sole distiller of this wondrous elixir. Nemorino purchases a bottle — in reality a potent red wine which speedily goes to his head. Adina returns and is astonished at the change in her once diffident suitor; for he ignores her completely. Belcore presses Adina to marry him and Nemorino, suddenly sobered, begs her to wait another day, but she consents to the sergeant's proposal.

ACT TWO

In Adina's house, celebrations of her coming marriage to Belcore are already under way. The notary arrives to draw up the contract, but Adina puts off signing. Nemorino complains to Dulcamara that despite the elixir his love affairs are more hopeless than ever. Dulcamara prescribes a second bottle, but Nemorino has no money left. He tells Belcore of his financial plight and Belcore persuades him to enlist and he will be well paid.

He goes in search of Dulcamara and a further draught of the magic potion. News comes that Nemorino's uncle has died and left him his whole fortune. Nemorino returns unaware of his legacy, and quite tipsy from his second bottle of elixir. He is now the centre of interest for the village girls and thinks this is due to the love potion. Dulcamara tells Adina that Nemorino had enlisted so that he might purchase the elixir and win her love. She buys back the enlistment paper and the two are reconciled. Belcore very sensibly accepts the situation. There is general rejoicing and Dulcamara declares the happy change in Nemorino's fortunes are entirely due to the Doctor's elixir. The villagers rush to buy his remaining stock and Dr. Dulcamara departs as magnificently as he had come.

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